Corporate Enterprise in Portugal and the World: Management, Governance, Ownership and Strategic Objectives

The aim is to focus on four topics in the history of corporate enterprises which are considered, in the literature, as crucial to their long term performance and success (or insuccess). They will be examined in a Portuguese historical perspective, but attention will also be given to cases in Brazil and the USA. This should provide a comparative dimension and enable some contrasts to be drawn between highly advanced and less developed capitalist systems. The session will deal with: how joint stock limited liability companies have organized themselves in terms of basic issues of governance (who owns, who commands and what is the role of the law in this relationship?); how they selected and focused on their long term objectives; how they organized themselves internally, under changing and challenging conditions, to secure these objectives.